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(54) **EXTERNAL AGENT FOR SKIN**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain an external agent for skin, having high stability with time, excellent safety and excellent skin-beautifying effect, by using a specific hydroquinone derivative such as hydroxyalkyl ether of hydroquinone as an active component.

CONSTITUTION: The objective external agent for skin contains 0.01W20wt.%, preferably 1W15wt.% (based on the whole external agent) of a hydroquinone derivative expressed by formula (R₁ is 2W20C straight or branched-chain saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group having ³¹ OH group; R₂ is H or 1W4C alkyl) [e.g. 2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)-ethanol]. The compound of formula can be produced by reacting a halohydrin with hydroquinone or an alkylhydroquinone in the presence of an alkali.

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